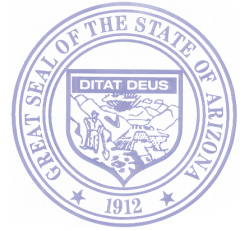


Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Services



Maricopa County Juvenile Detention Punishment or Prevention?

"The first day of being locked in detention you learn what it means to be alone. You miss your mom and dad, and you realize that there is no shoulder there to cry on..."

—Kevin, age 14, Detainee

The Juvenile Court mission and vision is based on the belief that most young people who have strayed from a law-abiding path, given the opportunity, can change. Accordingly, Juvenile Detention in Maricopa County is not about breaking juveniles down, but rather a constructive, preventative course of action aimed at **holding youths accountable**. By assigning consequences for delinquent behavior, the Juvenile Court Center provides a valuable service to the community where safety is paramount and treatment is essential for future success.

Today's juvenile justice system is not an "easy out" that gives a meaningless slap on the wrist to youthful offenders. Juveniles may be detained based on an objective evaluation of his/her risk to reoffend or flee. Juvenile Probation Officers initially review the present charge(s), history, aggravating factors, and whether or not he/she is a danger to self or the community in order to determine if a youth shall be detained. A Superior Court Judicial Officer reviews that decision within twenty-four hours for everyone's safety. Once detained, the juvenile quickly learns to adapt to the stringent rules and schedules of the facility.

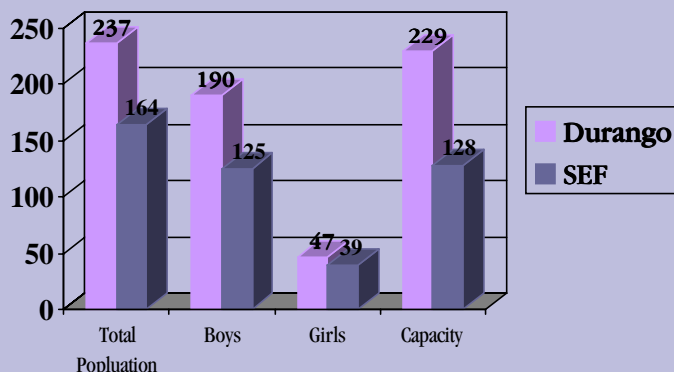
Level System. The first priority in detention is safety, for the youths and for the staff. This is achieved by following the level system: a management tool based on employing rewards and consequences to shape behavior. Level one the least privileged and level five the most privileged are differentiated by the color of shirt the detainee wears. Points are earned by following rules, participating in programming, and modeling good behavior. Youths can be promoted or demoted from one level to another based on their behavior. The level system is designed to teach structure as well as discipline but also provides a means for youth to achieve success in the community.



Programming & Education. Programming is a way to help juveniles gain knowledge, strength, and understanding in order to deal with the real world. Detention staff conduct individual and group discussions on appropriate behavior and characteristics of positive social skills. The juveniles are also able to attend a detention accredited school to maintain credits and education. Some of the specific programs offered in detention are:

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ◆ Anger Management | ◆ Cognitive Self Change | ◆ Substance Abuse/AA |
| ◆ Victim Awareness | ◆ Goal Setting | ◆ Life Skills |

Average Daily Detention Population 2000



A Day in Detention

7:00 a.m.	Wake up
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:15 a.m.	School begins
Noon	Lunch then back to school at 1 p.m.
3:00 p.m.	Back to units for quiet time
4:00 p.m.	Showers
4:30 p.m.	Dinner
5:30 p.m.	Programming
7:00 p.m.	Visiting
8:00 p.m.	Staggered bedtimes according to level system.
	Unit clean up chores and quiet time for higher levels until 10 p.m.

A Few Facts

- ◆ The Juvenile Court's detention centers, located in Phoenix and Mesa, are **short-term detention centers**, independent from the State Department of Juvenile Corrections.
- ◆ **The youngest detainee is 8 years old.** Units are staffed to maintain a 1 to 10 youth supervisor to juvenile ratio. Detainees are assigned to units based on their age and history.
- ◆ Each detention center maintains a **7 day a week clinic** staffed with registered nurses who administer medications and provide medical attention. A physician is scheduled for weekly visits and follow up care in addition to a psychiatrist who schedules appointments twice a week to review prescriptions.
- ◆ **Meals are served three times daily.** Typical meals include: Breakfast—eggs, potatoes, fruit, bread, juice, and milk; Lunch—sandwich, fruit, vegetables, pudding, and milk; Dinner—pasta or poultry, fruit, vegetables, bread, desert, and milk. A snack is also provided in the evenings.



- ◆ **The average length of stay in detention is 14 days.** Approximately 50% of juveniles are released from detention in two days or less. Either charges will not be filed against them, or a judge has released them on reviewing their situation more thoroughly.
- ◆ The **High Impact Program (HIP) and Violators of Intensive Probation Services (VIPS)** units at Durango are highly structured intervention programs that provide assessment, aftercare planning, and support services. Juveniles are court-ordered into the programs and are exposed to intensive programming and community service work.

"I started AA more than a year ago, here in detention. At the time everyone was saying I would probably end up in prison or dead. I almost died from gang violence and alcohol poisoning. I made a commitment to God, myself, my mom, the Judge, and my PO. I wasn't sure if I could do it, but I knew I had to try. My life is different now. Not just different, but better. People quit telling me I'm going to prison or that I won't live to 21. Now I have hope for a good future..."

—Rafael, age 19, former detainee

Alternatives to Detention

In order to meet supervision needs of individual youth and to make effective use of public resources, alternatives to detention include:

- ◆ **Home Detention** was the first court-ordered alternative to detention implemented in Maricopa County. In this program the juvenile's freedom is greatly restricted, and the Home Detention staff maintain frequent and close contact with the juvenile on an unannounced daily basis to assure compliance with the conditions of release. The average length of Home Detention is 52 days.
- ◆ **Juvenile Electronic Monitoring** involves placing a juvenile on 24-hour electronic surveillance. The program allows probation staff to determine a juvenile's location without having direct physical or telephone contact. Any infraction is recorded by the contractor, Safeguard, and is reported to the assigned Juvenile Probation Officer. Remote surveillance is possible by utilizing a portable hand-held receiver that verifies a probationer is physically present at a designated location. The average length of surveillance is 32 days.
- ◆ **Detention Mediation** is a process allowing juveniles and their families an opportunity to talk about issues occurring at home and to reach an agreement about what all the family members need to do to correct the problems. Mediation is appropriate in cases where the issues keeping the juvenile in detention relate to problems within the home such as domestic violence or incorrigibility. Voluntary compliance with release conditions is more likely in cases where the family has determined the terms. Of the 96 families that participated in mediation in 1999, 80% agreed to terms and conditions whereby the detained child could return to his/her home and forwarded this agreement to the Court for its approval.

For more information contact:

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